

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Tuesday, April 30, 2013**

**Present:** Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones  
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris  
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator  
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

**Absent:** Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of April 16, 2013, as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones abstained.**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013, as presented. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Morris abstained.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

1. Draft Agenda for May 7 and 14, 2013.
2. **Department of Recreation and Parks** (*Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager*)

*(Nathaniel Scroggins, President, Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions)*

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) outlining the responsibilities of the County and the UCAC for the Civil War Memorial and Interpretive Center. Motion carried 4-0.**

**3. St. Mary's County Public Schools** (*Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent of Schools; Brad Clements, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Operations*)

**Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the following FY 2013 actions as submitted and approved by the Board of Education on April 10, 2013.**

**#1. Execute the FY2013 Budget Amendment establishing the new project and budget authority in the Esperanza Middle School-Soil Erosion Project PS1302, and using the remaining funds of \$118,483 in the Site Acquisition Project PS0610;**

**#2. We acknowledge receipt of the Esperanza Middle School Soil Erosion Project sheet, and advise the Board of Education to submit this applicable CIP worksheet reflecting inclusion of the FY2014 and FY2015 funding, along with any other CIP appeals such as for the new State projects for School Security and Air Conditioning part of the FY2014 Budget Process on or before May 8th;**

**#3. Endorse the Board of Education actions to seek FEMA recovery on the Esperanza Middle School soil erosion; and**

**#4. Execute the Letter of Consent communicating the above actions and expectations  
Motion carried 4-0.**

**4. The Housing Authority of St. Mary's County** (*Dennis Nicholson, Executive Director; Crystal Wojciechowski, Program Manager*)

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to authorize the County Administrator or County Attorney to schedule a public hearing for the State Fiscal Year 2013 Community Development Block Grant Special Projects Application. Motion carried 4-0.**

**5. Health Department** (*Tracy Kubinec, MBA, MPH, Deputy Health Officer*)

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the document approving Aerial Spray Operations for Gypsy Moth Control for the 2013 Season. Motion carried 4-0.**

**6. Department of Emergency Services and Technology** (*Bob Kelly, Director*)

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Budget Amendment to return matching funds in project US0941 by \$11,150 to the BOCC Emergency Appropriations account. Motion carried 4-0.**

**7. Department of Economic and Community Development** *(Steve Anderson, Director)*

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment using \$75,000 from the Commissioner's Emergency Appropriation reserve to the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance for a SWOT analysis pertaining to NAS Patuxent River. Payment of funds is contingent upon an approved MOU, which includes deliverables, by the BOCC. Motion carried 4-0.**

**OPENING CEREMONIES FOR THE 43RD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
SPRING GAMES AT LEONARDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, 23995 POINT LOOKOUT  
ROAD, LEONARDTOWN**

The Commissioners attended the opening ceremony for the annual Special Olympics Spring Games.

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION: PRESENTATION OF  
FY 2014-19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND FY2014 CIB**

**Present:** Dan Ichniowski, Director, Metropolitan Commission  
Rebecca Shick, Chief Financial Officer, Metropolitan Commission  
Mike Sullivan, Chief of Facilities and Operations, Metropolitan Commission

An overview of the FY2014 Capital Improvement Budget and the FY 2014-FY 2019 Capital Improvement Plan was presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Ichniowski and Mr. Sullivan highlighted water and sewer projects to be completed in 2014 and costs associated with these projects. The Commissioners questioned the significant increase in costs being presented today versus last year's projections and asked that future projections be more representative of the actual costs. METCOM will appear before the BOCC on June 11, 2013, for final approval of their FY2014 CIB budget.

**COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2014 RECOMMENDED BUDGET AT  
CHOPTICON HIGH SCHOOL**

Commissioner Russell opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 pm.

Commissioner President Russell provided welcoming remarks and commented on the budget process to date. The final adoption of the FY 2014 Budget is scheduled for May 28, 2013.

Any additional written comments relative to the FY 2014 Budget must be submitted by May 10, 2013.

### **Recommended FY2014 Budget**

Ms. Kramer provided an overview of the Recommended FY2014 Budget focusing on the General Fund and Capital Improvement Projects. When preparing the budget, the focus was on efficient and effective core government services, limited out-year revenue growth, CIP operating impacts, and the use of fund balance to reduce liabilities that in turn reduce future annual costs. Consideration was also given to the potential impact other budgets (state/federal), sequestration, and BRAC will have on the County.

The proposed budget is based on no change in the County's tax rates. Highlights from the \$212.1M recommended General Fund Budget were provided. The County Department's \$48.8 Operating Budget will maintain staffing levels at the 1999 level, incorporate NextGen, provide two merit step increases for employees, and set aside \$350,000 for BRAC/ Sequestration. The Board of Education will receive \$89,910,979 which includes \$80,363,840 (required maintenance of effort); pension shift of \$3,150,691; \$2,000,000 for OPEB; additional OPEB funding of \$955,256; and a 4% increase of \$3,441,192. This funding will fund the BOE negotiated agreements. The County's allocation to the Sheriff increased by five percent for non-grant activities which reflects compensation improvements, five new positions, and 14 new vehicles. The Sheriff still has the opportunity re-address allocation of funds this month. The Library will receive a five percent increase from last year which will allow the Sunday hours at the Lexington Park Branch to be restored. The College of Southern Maryland funding will add services of a Non-Profit Institute and a Veterans Affairs Coordinator for St. Mary's County.

Ms. Kramer addressed the unassigned general fund balance and the multi-year plan to use these funds for non recurring costs. Major projects to be undertaken in the next three years were presented.

Mr. Tony Jones, Public Information Officer for the County facilitated the following public hearings.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and are not verbatim.)*

### **PUBLIC HEARING: HOLLYWOOD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD**

The Rescue Squad requested a rate change from \$.011 to \$.014 which will increase revenue by approximately \$45,546. This would affect only properties in the Hollywood district. The annual average impact per property would be \$8.01.

*There were no comments.*

### **PUBLIC HEARING: RIDGE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD**

The Rescue Squad requested a rate change from \$.008 to \$.011 which will increase their revenue by approximately \$24,022. This would affect only property in the Ridge district. The annual average impact per property would be \$6.09.

*There were no comments.*

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CONSTANT YIELD TAX**

The County is considering not reducing the current tax rate of \$.0857 to the constant yield rate of \$0.8526.

#### **Ms. Deb Rey, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park MD**

- Reduce tax rate to constant yield
- Upcoming gas tax by state and sequestration means less disposable income for families

### **PUBLIC HEARING: RECOMMENDED FY2014 BUDGET**

#### **Sheriff Tim Cameron**

- Formulating a budget in these challenging economic times is difficult because you need to creating a budget that is dedicated to fiscal responsibility and achieving and maintaining public safety
- Wanted to clarify that Sheriff's Office increase is 3.5% not 5%
- Not enough money to fund five FTEs (full-time equivalent personnel)
- Consider additional request that will affect school programs and service to courts
- Will request re-alignment of budget

#### **Laura Frederick 222010 Baja Lane, Great Mills, MD**

#### **Cynthia Berry, Baja Lane, Great Mills, MD**

- Tubman Douglas Estates is 1<sup>st</sup> successful low income community in the County
- Requested street lights and street signs for Tubman Douglas Estates

#### **Carolyn Miller 40610 Kavanagh Rd., Mechanicsville, MD**

#### **Charles Herbert**

- Representing St. Joseph Community Center, Inc.
- 501 organization
- Proposing 6 week summer camp for underprivileged youth ages 8-13
- Estimated budget for camp \$23,000
- Requested funding from Commissioners

**Dr. Brad Gottfried, President, College of Southern Maryland**

**Dr. Tracy Harris, Vice President, College of Southern Maryland**

- Thanked Commissioners for their support
- Thanked commissioners for funding Non-Profit Institute and Veteran Affairs Coordinator
- Students struggling with increase affordability
- Request additional scholarship funding for upcoming year

**James Bershon, 41328 Breton Beach, Leonardtown, MD**

**Dana McGarity**

- Representing St. Mary's Caring
- Soup Kitchen - Nonprofit institute – rely 95% on fundraising efforts and organizations
- Last year served over 18,528 meals which was a 10% increase over last year
- Count on continued support of County government
- Asked Commissioners for their continued support
- Requested Commissioners to restore other non-profits to amounts requested

**Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools**

Brad Clements, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Operations

Gregory Nourse, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources

BOE Members: Dr. Salvatore L. Raspa, Mary Washington, William Brooke Matthews,

Marilyn A. Crosby, Cathy Allen

- Not as many in attendance as last year but still great interest in school system
- Thanked Commissioners for collaboration during this budget cycle, 4% increase (no cuts or staff furloughs this year), and funding for OPEB
- Requested funding of 10 additional security personnel to assist in elementary schools
- Requested funding for Sheriff's Office to place 2 additional officers in middle schools
- Fire at Spring Ridge School - need to move to the top of CIP projects to ensure funding is available to renovate Spring Ridge and make it a state-of-the-art school

**Anna Laughlin**

- Representing Educational Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC) - 1,300 professional educators
- Delighted after 3 years move forward and invest in teachers
- Still much to be done –recover steps lost the last two years
- Want to hire and retain highly qualified teachers for our students

**Jerry Butt**

- Representing Collective Education Association of St. Mary's County (CEASMC)
- Thanks for support of BOE budget

**Trisha Post, Lexington Park MD**

- Thanked Dr. Martirano and all the teachers in the County
- Need to increase budget for teachers to maintain high standards

**Following is a list of individuals who addressed the Commissioners on the recent fire and conditions at Spring Ridge Middle School along with a summary of their concerns.**

Andrea Dyson, 45593 Pleasant Mill Dr. Great Mills, MD

Andrea Bowman, 45900 Lex Ct., Great Mills, MD

Pat Dunlap, 17745 Whitestone Dr., Tall Timbers

Elfreda Mathis, P.O. Box 80, Valley Lee, MD

Janice Walthour, 20493 Partin's Lane, Lexington Park, MD

Aaron Mathis, 20808 Rosslare Ct., Lexington Park, MD

Robert Gant, Lexington Park, MD

Judith Osborn, 49557 Bay Forest Rd., Lexington Park, MD

Sherry Stanley, 17183 Point Lookout Rd., Lexington Park, MD

Linda Thomas

Ms. Deb Rey, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park MD

- Financing and safety has to be top priority for schools
- Spring Ridge School built in 1974 and has had no major renovations – is outdated and dangerous
- Spring Ridge School's condition is horrendous
- Electric fire proves school is not safe
- No plans to renovate until 2018 - Spent \$11.6M to renovate Leonardtown
- HVAC has out lived usable life - 40 year old A/C not efficient
- POD system outdated, HVAC old, expect major failures
- As result of fire last week learned that Spring Ridge did not have sprinkler system
- Fire was a call to action -
- Questioned air quality in school
- Renovate school to state-of-the-art facility
- Consider safety in all schools
- Read letters from parents asking for renovation of Spring Ridge
- Read excerpt from a letter from Delegate John Bohannon
- Find funding to address concerns – if money was invested before would we have had fire
- Want state-of-the-art renovation for Spring Ridge – important for education and safety
- Desperately need safe schools that serves community
- Heard different theories on what should be done at the school – I support getting the entire school renovated at once
- Spring Ridge serves the majority of low income families in County – also concerned with academic gap

**Brenda Nussberger, 45200 Happyland Road, Valley Lee**

- Lifestyles, Inc./Leah's House – a non-profit organization
- Provide food assistance, workforce development services and emergency financial assistance
- Leah's House serves as a shelter for women and children
- Asked Commissioners to reconsider their request for \$10,000

**Tracia Price, P. O. Box 203, Callaway, MD**

**Marguerite Morris, Happyland Rd., Callaway, MD**

- Leah's House has been trying to obtain a loan with USDA in the amount of \$1.8M to help individuals in this County
- Asked Commissioners to support their initiative to obtain a loan
- Leah's House has been assisting individuals for 8 years and has never closed its doors
- Requested time on your agenda to meet with you and was told no
- Requested part of allocated funds
- Getting USDA loan is wonderful opportunity for the county

**Jannette Norris, 229 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD**

- Treasurer, St. Mary's County
- Asked Commissioners to reconsider reclassification for staff in Treasurer's Office
- Office only has a staff of 4 – as the County has grown workload has increased and become more complex

**Terri Griest, 22015 Clipper Dr., Great Mills, MD**

- Representing Autism Spectrum Support Group of Southern Maryland and Parent
- People with special needs, as do others in County, go to Baltimore for support
- Funding for St. Mary's County Schools find teachers do status quo with less
- Want the schools to be able to meet the needs of an autism child
- Thanked Dr. Martirano for coordinating with Autism Spectrum
- Pay now to meet the needs for these children to avoid future costs to County when they are adults

**John Hogg, 46717 Robert Leon Dr., Lexington Park MD**

- Chairman of SMC Sheriff's Advisory Board
- Vital issues that need funding
- Sheriff's Office budget needs to be increased
- Additional funding requested by Sheriff's Office has full backing of the Advisory Board
- Sheriff is good steward of funds

**Dawn Pipkin, 24701 Blackstone Rd., Hollywood MD**

- Non-county agencies provide vital services to the county – last year statement was made that the plan is to work towards zero funding
- Arts Council and Sommersseat all play vital role in County
- Reconsider funding of these agencies – groups are largely volunteers
- Library and School System are quality of life
- Officials need to be listed to the needs of the people

**Nancy Easterling, Executive Director, Sotterly Plantation**

**Jan Briscoe**

- Thanked Commissioners for keeping Sotterly in the budget
- Thousands of children visit Sotterly to receive education on 300 years of nation and county history
- Last year 23,000 visited Sotterly bringing additional business into the County
- Sotterly is supported by 14,000 volunteer hours
- The County's support helps keep Sotterly open and will be good stewards of your funding

**Mr. Jones reminded residents that the record will remain open for comments until May 10, 2013, and closed the Public Hearings at 8:40 pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)